Foreign secretary level talks to resolve Indo-China border dispute

*173. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outcome of the recent Foreign Secretary level Sino-Indian Joint Working Group Talks to settle the boundary issue held in the capital;

(b) the accommodation extended by the Chinese deleagiton at these talks; and

(c) the progress made so far in the settlement of the border issue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) During the 4th meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group on the boundary question, it was agreed that regular meetings of border personnel would be held in June and October every year at Bum La Pass in the Eastern Sector and in the Spanggur Gap Area of the Western Sector. It was also agreed that communication links would be established to facilitate easy contract between border personnel views were exchanged on confidence-building measures including prior intimation of military exercises.

(b) The attitude on both sides has been frank, positive and friendly. Both sides are seeking to narrow differences on the complex boundary question.

(c) The two sides have enhanced their understanding of each other's perceptions on the issue and are also discussing concrete confidence-building measures that will ensure peace and tranquillity in the areas along the Line of Actual Control. They recognise that they have the will and the ability to resolve the boundary question in a fair and resaonable manner.

Production of cloth

*174. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) What is the expected demand of cloth in the country;

(b) Whether the demand can be met by indigenous production in the country; and

(c) if not, in what manner the shortage will be met by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) According to the projections made for the 8th Five Year Plan the total requirements of cloth by the terminal year of the Plan are estimated at 29,600 million sq. metres.

(b) Adequate capacity exists in the country for production of the cloth required.

(c) Does not arise.

Response of security council members to India's stand on NTP

*175. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the response from the Indian viewpoint on non-proliferation of atomic weapons at the summit meet of the Security Council members;

(b) whether India is being pressurised to sign the NPT;

(c) what is the number of countries who have signed the NTP and those who have opposed this; and

(d) whether big powers are prepared to abolish atomic arsenal in this or the next decade?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) The views expressed by India on disarmament and non-proliferation at the recent Summit meeting of the Security Council were noted.

(b) The NPT signatory States have been calling for universalization of the Treaty and, in this connection they have in general terms been urging States which are not parties to the NPT to sign the Treaty.

(c) 144 countries have signed the NPT as of September, 1991. Several countries on the other hands continue to remain opposed to the NPT.

(d) No such assurance has been provided.

Tie up with U.S.A. on defence system

*176. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of various press reports regarding tie up between India's defence system and that of the U.S.A.;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and whether it is in conformity with India's policy of non-alignment; and

(c) if not, why these reports were not contradicted in the interest of the country's good name?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are a large number of countries with which India cooperates in the defence field. This does not in any way violate India's non-aligned status.

(c) Does not arise.

Protection to Handloom Sector

*177. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govenment have assured protection to the handloom sector as reported in a news item in Economic Times of the 28th January, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the full details of the programme worked out with special reference to Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) whether Government have ensured maximum export of handlooms and retention of mill cloth for the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to preserve the unique role of handlooms and also to improve the socio-economic conditions of the handloom weavers, Government is implementing the following measures throughout the country including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

(i) The Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme to ensure production of hank yarn for the handloom sector;

(ii) Loan assistance towards Share capital participation in weavers cooperative spinning mills for production of yarn for the handloom sector;

(iii) Assistance to the National Handloom Development Corporation for their yarn supply operations and development activities;

(iv) Janata Cloth Scheme;

(v) Welfare measures under Thrift Fond Scheme and Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme;